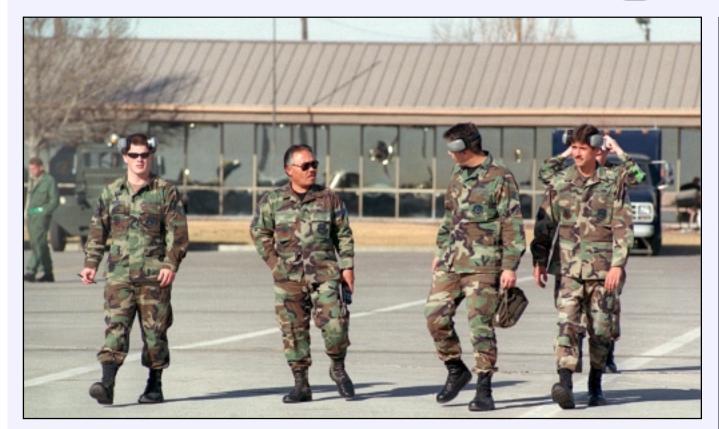
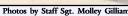
## Falcon AMF keeps Weapons School students soaring





Clockwise, Airman James Stillwell talks to a pilot prior to launch. Staff Sgt. Ryan DuFrair, Chief Master Sgt. Steven Avilla, Staff Sgt. George Russell and Airman Stillwell, from Falcon, conduct a FOD walk. Airman First Class Shawn Flanagan talks with Staff Sgt. Patrick Young during a systems check of an F-16.







Above, Senior Airman Willy Brown does an intake foreign object damage inspection on an engine. Bottom, a crew chief holds an F-16 in chalks prior to launch.

## By Staff Sgt. Ed Scott AWFC Public Affairs

Generating airpower for the USAF Weapons School is the mission of approximately 180 people assigned to the 57th Aircraft Generation Squadron Falcon Aircraft Maintenance Flight.

Avilla, maintenance superintendent, Falcon generates between 16 and 24 sorties a day with 24 F-16s. Falcon also maintains the 57<sup>th</sup> commandant's aircraft and the school's 50th anniversary flagship.

other units split their assets between fighter booster. training and test missions -we're strictly

contracted 4,100 sorties along with being selected as 57th Wing AMF of the month eight

It's a unique challenge having to provide safe, reliable and effective aircraft for some of the best F-16 pilots in the Air Force," said Capt. Michael Miles, Falcon AMF commander.

Capt. Miles presented the unit with a chal-According to Chief Master Sgt. Steve lenge to begin the new year – to launch 18 aircraft at once as if they were going to war.

"They accepted the challenge and it was a huge success," he said. "They proved we could Wing flagship, the USAF Weapons School launch aircraft for war just like any other fighter unit in the command."

The unit was able to launch 17 out of 18 "We're the only AMF at Nellis that has (Jan. 7) with 19 aircraft available. The exerone operation," Chief Avilla said. "All the cise also proved to be a excellent moral

"Our mission is a little different than other units I've been assigned to," said Staff Sgt. Last year Falcon met 100 percent of its Jeff Forer, a crew chief. Sgt. Forer was Base, Fla., for one week for the school's Weap-

years. "Training pilots is important, and since that is our one focus, it makes our mission easier."

Staff Sgt. Ryan Dufrain, a weapons load Since the unit was a huge success last year, although he's been a member of Falcon for their syllabus than other training missions," only six months

"When I was at Kunsan (Air Base, Kotion chief. rea), our mission was larger, but we had more experienced people, many more crews and basically loaded one or two different munitions," he said. "Here we have people right out of tech school with no experience, and we have to be qualified to load almost everything in the inventory to meet the needs of enough people to get it done, the people over the Weapons School's students. Because of come and adapt." this, we require more training on our part."

Along with the training, Falcon sends air-

stationed in Europe for six years prior to ons System Evaluation Program as well as Nellis. He has been here for more than two deploy aircraft to the local live ordnance loading area twice a year for graduation exercises.

"Weapons School is a tough commitment and I don't see this as training – yes, we are here to train but what they (Weapons School crew chief, has been at Nellis for five years students) do has a faster pace because of said Master Sgt. Jim Wescott, a Falcon sec-

"The pace is hectic with constant aircraft configuration changes and constantly changing shift schedules due to range times, but the attitude is great," said Master Sgt. Todd Springhorn, a section chief. "The people know what they need to do, and if we don't have

"Our people are not just good maintainers - they are some of the best in the Air Force," craft and maintainers to Tyndall Air Force said Capt. Miles. "We are looking forward to another successful year."

